

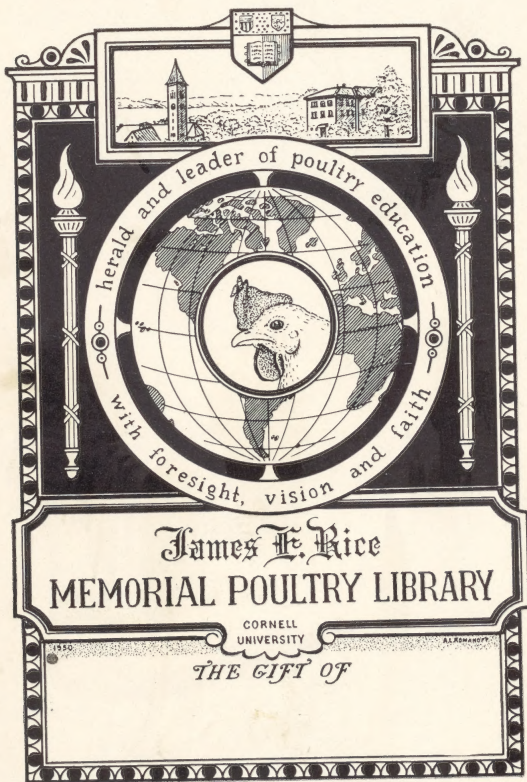
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Faverolles



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PREFACE. 3 /

THE illustrations in this little brôchure are taken from photographs very kindly sent over from M. Roullier-Aroult's establishment at Gambais, Seine et Oise, France. The object of showing these French pictures is to induce English breeders to follow on the same lines, and with some exceptions, which will be alluded to later, to go on reproducing a utility fowl that has been proved by the experience of utilitarians.

It is not intended to write a complete treatise on poultry keeping. The remarks will be confined to Faverolles : their breeding and management. The hints contained are only meant for those who already possess some practical knowledge of fowls. Some of the ideas may perhaps be considered unorthodox. Readers, however, may rest assured that what is stated has been personally carried out by the writer, either in this country or abroad. That there are many other excellent breeds, and excellent methods of rearing, etc., are facts fully well appreciated ; but to those who have the facilities for producing quick-growing chickens, one cannot go far wrong in recommending Faverolles.

T. R. ROBINSON, F.S.I.,
(Diplôme d'aviculteur français),

S. E. Ag. College,
Wye, Kent.

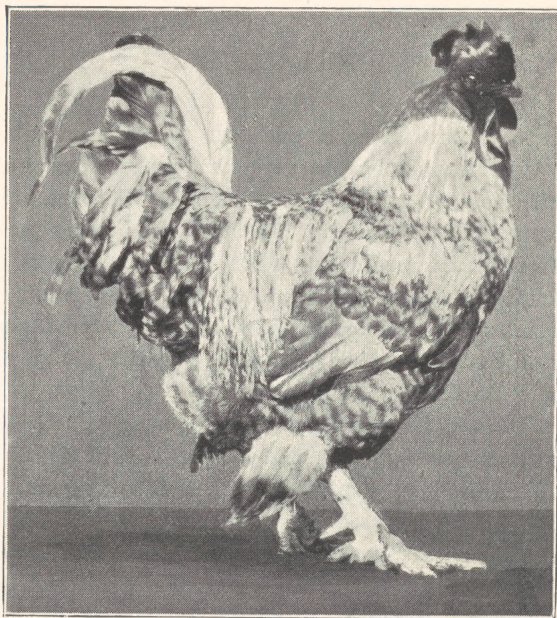
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FAVEROLLE-COUCON.

FAVEROLLES.

REASON FOR KEEPING FAVEROLLES.

IT has often been said we live in an age of small joints, little birds, and French knick-knacks. The huge dish which used to appear, first as a roast, then cold, and then in that unknown quantity, commonly called a hash,

has disappeared before something fresh day by day. What is wanted then is a chicken that is easy to rear, quick to grow, and yet has tender and juicy flesh. Will Faverolles do this? We maintain that they will, for, although as old birds they are undoubtedly coarse, yet when young they will attain a size and weight with less trouble than some of our finer breeds, and a young fowl kept in the way advocated here will leave nothing in the way of quality to be desired.

WHAT IS A FAVEROLLE?

In France the Faverolle answers to what the Surrey or Sussex bird does in England. It makes the highest price in the Paris markets, and has quite displaced the Houdan from its own district. It has been bred by a people whose one great object has been to make a profit. A Faverolle makes no pretence to be a pure breed. It is the outcome of two distinct processes, *i.e.*, careful crossing and liberal feeding. We find the Houdan, Dorking, Brahma, and Cochin, a mixture of all four, represented in one bird. It must be borne in mind that the country people care nothing about colour and markings. What they want is something that will come to the market



FAVEROLLE-COUCON.

quick, that will, if required, stand the confinement of a fattening coop, or that when mature will make a good forager, and will be a fair layer of average-sized tinted eggs.

FAVEROLLES AS THEY ARE BRED.

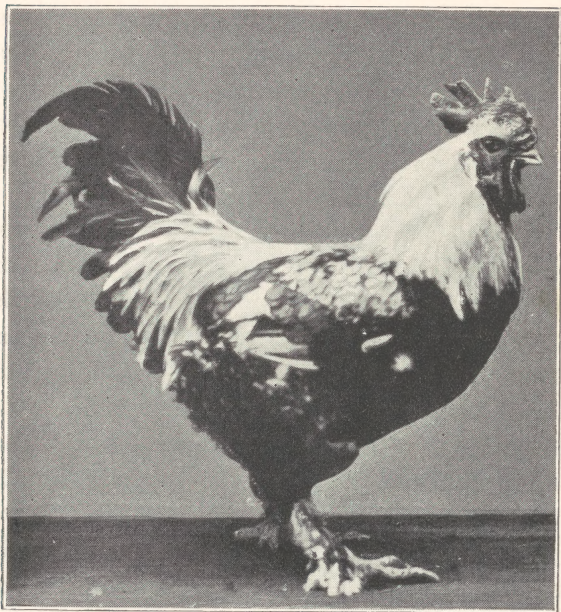
The Houdan gives them their chief characteristics—the whiskers, small beard, and in some cases a crest. The Dorking is particularly noticed in the male, as seen by the white

legs, four or five claws, black breast, and the single comb so commonly met with. The Brahma or Cochin generally leaves traces of feathers down the leg, is responsible for the brown egg of the hen, and often for the colour and general carriage of the bird.

Although the breeding for feather has not been studied, yet the different and more or less systematic ways of producing these birds have brought into existence several types. Thus we have the Faverolle-Dorking or Faverolle-Saumon. These, when bred with clean legs, make splendid table birds. The Faverolle-Brahma is also very popular, and is marked similar to the light Brahma. There is also the black, which owes its origin partly to the Langshan, and the Faverolle-Coucon, which may have a cross of Coucon de Malines or Plymouth Rock. Our preference lies rather with the Faverolle-Dorking ; although perhaps not quite such a good layer as some of the other varieties, we think it comes rather sooner to hand for the table.

HOUSING AND RUNS.

From the habit of foraging for itself the Faverolle is essentially a farm-yard fowl, and is therefore well adapted for the unlimited range and all the warm corners that an old-

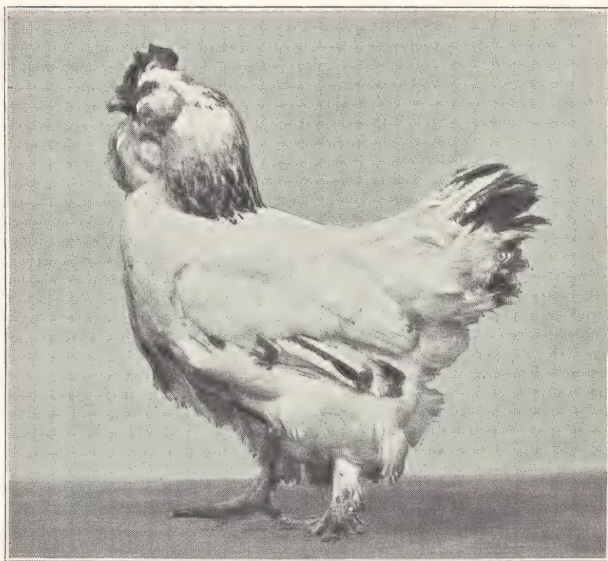


FAVEROLLE-DORKING.

fashioned homestead affords. If, however, it is found necessary to keep them in confinement, then the larger the space the better. In our experience twenty-five by thirty yards has been sufficient to keep eight or nine birds in good health, but with strict cleanliness very much smaller areas may, no doubt, be used. Where possible, have the run sheltered on the north and east side by trees or a hedge; the

comparatively dry land thus afforded will be much appreciated by the inmates. Where natural shelter is not available, mounds of earth, banks made of cut turf, stockade fences, or thatched hurdles suggest themselves.

The run may also be provided with several perches, about two feet from the ground, for the birds to amuse themselves. We also like to place wigwam nest boxes in the most secluded spots. A good-sized scratching shed, drinking fountain, feeding trough, and dust bath will complete the furniture. A square wooden building with a thatch roof makes a useful house. Allow about ten cubic feet per fowl. Use inch boards, and have as little framework as possible, so that dirty corners, so dear to insect life, may be reduced to a minimum. The door should be wide, and cut horizontally into halves, the upper portion of which may be left open. Other ventilation may be under the eaves and at apex of roof if other than thatch. The floor should be made of well-rammed broken bricks, chalk, or dry earth. Peat moss in winter will add greatly to the comfort of the occupants. The perches should be all the same height, and run from both sides of the doorway, and so leave a clear gangway to the other end of the house. The



FAVEROLLE-BRAHMA.

whole place should be lime-washed once or twice a year.

REARING.

Young Faverolles are exceptionally hardy chickens, and may be reared without difficulty in a variety of ways. The favourite coop and movable foster-mother systems are sufficiently well known to need no description here. We will, therefore, confine our remarks to the early forcing method as adopted in some parts of France. In this case the foster*

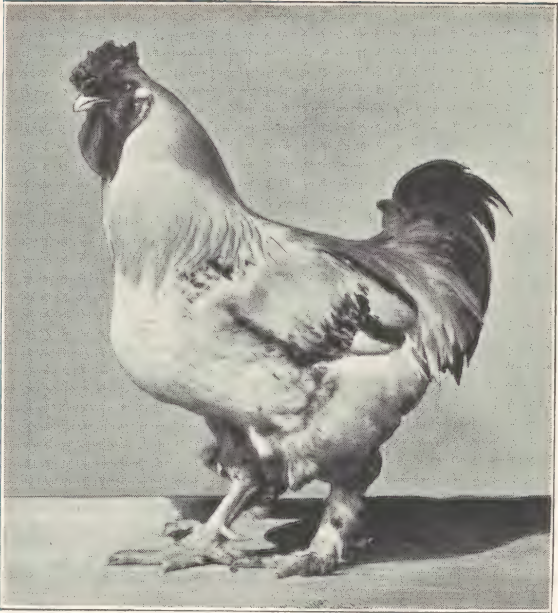
* This machine may be seen at work at the S. E. College Farm, Wye.

mother, holding from 100 to 200 chickens, is in communication with a wooden house, some eight or ten feet square. The chickens, therefore, have the advantage, even in the worst weather, of a large, dry, covered run. Of course the more they are out when it is fine the better, but during wet and cold seasons it is advisable for them to be out for only short periods of time. Always see that they are shut securely in the foster at night. When old enough let them sleep in the house on plenty of dry wheat or oat straw, and for the first few mornings it is beneficial to run them back into the foster-mother for a *rechuffé*.

FEEDING.

Feeding sticks are better than troughs, being less wasteful. The first food is finely ground or sifted barley and oatmeal mixed into a rather stiff paste with separated milk. A little hard boiled egg and cheese crumbs make an excellent addition. After a few days a complete food will be as follows:—Barleymeal, oatmeal, sharps, granulated meal, a little bone phosphate, a sprinkling of sulphur and some grit, the whole mixed up with skim milk.* The food may sometimes be cheapened by using a proportion of ground maize. On about the fifteenth day mixture may be gradually

* A little fat mixed in with this food is a splendid stimulant in cold weather.



FAVEROLLE-BRAHMA.

brought on to boiled buckwheat, and after a little time the buckwheat and meal may be fed alternately every four hours.

The following records of weights are taken from experiments carried out in the spring of 1897 by M. Grange at the Ecole d'aviculteur à Gambais, and have since been published in "La Revue Avicole"; the figures refer to

grammes and kilogrammes, and are the average of the whole group :—

Age.		Average. K.		Weight of one picked specimen. K.
1 month	-	0'185	-	0'290
6 weeks	-	0'450	-	0'625
2 months	-	0'785	-	1'050
3 months	-	1'800	-	2'000

Fed on soft food in this way, the birds are fit to kill at three months old, or if extra size is wanted, they may be taken from the run to the cramming pens and fed for two or three weeks longer.

BREEDING.

With regard to the number of hens to be placed with the cock, that of course depends on the male bird; five or six hens may be sufficient in the winter, but two or three times that number may not be too many later on in the season. We should prefer to breed from a clean legged male of the Dorking type. For early chicken it is best to breed from pullets mated with a two-year-old tom. Rest him for a couple of months before mating him with the hens, and in cold weather and dry seasons feed a little meat.

In conclusion, we would say, breed well, feed well, and house well; feed the chickens early, often and late; make the breeding stock work for their living; disinfect several



FAVEROLLE-SAUMON.

times a year. This can be done by burning sulphur, after stuffing up all doors and windows, or by washing with lime and paraffin, or dilute solution of sulphuric acid. The object of these notes, some of which have already appeared in "Poultry" and other journals, will be attained if they in any way help to bring out a paying article fit to put on the table at practically any time of the year.





